

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS VISIT -- "IDENTITY OF VIEWS"

REF: (A) ATHENS 8901 (B) ATHENS 8951

1. REAFFIRMATION OF COMMON POLICY. FROM THE GREEK VIEWPOINT, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CYPRIOT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' TWO-DAY VISIT TO ATHENS (AUGUST 22-24) ON HIS RETURN FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC) IN COLOMBO WAS THAT IT SERVED AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM PUBLICLY THE IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE GOC, THUS DISPELLING RECURRENT RUMORS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THIS POINT WAS UNDERLINED BY THE MFA WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CYPRIOT AFFAIRS IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF. AS DURING OTHER VISITS OR STOPOVERS HERE BY PRESIDENT MARKARIOS, THIS VISIT WAS SURROUNDED BY WARM CORDIALITY AND RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY. (THE DISPLAY OF UNITY PROVOKED OPPOSITION PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU TO CRITICIZE MAKARIOS FOR HIS FULL ENDORSEMENT OF THE GOG'S HANDLING OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE. SEE REFTEL B.)

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2. THE MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND THE AEGEAN DISPUTE WERE VERY OBVIOUSLY SEPARATE ISSUES, AS PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND THE ARCHBISHOP POINTED OUT IN THEIR PUBLIC REMARKS, THEY ARE JUST AS OBVIOUSLY LINKED IN THAT TURKEY IS THE COMMON DENOMINATOR IN BOTH CASES, AND IT REACTS AS IF THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS WERE INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE SAME PROBLEM. THEREFORE, HE CONTINUED, THE GOG AND THE GOC MUST MAINTAIN A COMMON STANCE IN THE FACE OF TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE ON BOTH ISSUES. WHEN ASKED WHAT MAKARIOS AND CARAMANLIS MEANT IN THEIR REFERENCE TO "CERTAIN MODIFICATION" IN THE COMMON POLICY (REFTEL A), THE MFA OFFICIAL CLARIFIED THAT THE TWO LEADERS WERE REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT CHANGING DEVELOPMENTS SINCE JULY 1974 HAD BROUGHT ABOUT DIFFERENT POSITIONS, CITING THE TURKISH "COLONIZATION" PROGRAM AS BUT ONE EXAMPLE.

3. THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS RETURNED FROM COLOMBO IN A GOOD MOOD, SAID THE MFA OFFICIAL, BECAUSE HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE NAC ENDORSEMENT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT POSITION. MAKARIOS HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE LAST ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL, THERE MIGHT BE SOME BACKSLIDING ON THE PART OF A NUMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED WITH REGARD TO THE SECTION OF THE FINAL RESOLUTION DEALING WITH CYPRUS. HOWEVER, IN THE ARCHBISHOP'S OPINION, COLOMBO HAD NOT BEEN A STEP BACKWARD FROM THE FIRM SUPPORT SHOWN AT LIMA LAST YEAR. ACCORDING TO THE MFA OFFICIAL, MAKARIOS WAS ALSO PLEASED OVER THE FACT THAT TFSC FOREIGN MINISTER CELIK WAS NOT EVEN GRANTED A VISA FOR SRI LANKA AND THUS WAS UNABLE TO PRESS HIS REQUEST TO ATTEND THE NAC AS AN OBSERVER. HE SAID THAT THE ARCHBISHOP INDICATED THAT THE ONLY MOSLEM NATIONS WHICH CREATED ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES AT THE NAC HAD BEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA.

4. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. CARAMANLIS AND MAKARIOS HAD A LENGTHY, PRIVATE TETE-A-TETE AT WHICH NO ONE, NOT EVEN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS, HAD BEEN PRESENT NOR AS OF YET DEBRIEFED, SAID OUR MFA SOURCE. AT OTHER MEETINGS WITH EXPANDED ATTENDANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, OUR SOURCE SAID THE TWO HAD AGREED THAT THE CHANCE FOR THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO BE RECONVENED IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS NEAR ZERO. MAKARIOS HAD SEEN UNSYG WALDHEIM IN COLOMBO, AND THE LATTER WAS STILL ADAMANT IN NOT BEING WILLING TO CALL FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS UNDER HIS AEGIS BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING ANY PROGRESS. REPORTS IN ANKARA AND IN WASHINGTON THAT THE TALKS MIGHT START

AGAIN IN THE SEPTEMBER 5-20 TIME FRAME WERE BASELESS, NOTED THE OFFICIAL, AND THE UNGA DEBATE ON CYPRUS WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY MOST LIKELY DISRUPT THE ATMOSPHERE FOR STILL SOME TIME TO COME. USING THE "HUMANITARIAN TALKS" AS A PROCEDURE TO REINSTITUTE THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WAS NOT FEASIBLE, HE SAID, AND DE CUELLAR'S IDEA OF CONVENING THE TALKS UNDER HIS OWN AEGIS, RATHER THAN UNDER WALDHEIM'S SPONSORSHIP, WAS UNACCEPTABLE. FOR INSTANCE, MAKARIOS FELT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE DENIGRATING THE TALKS BY PLACING THEM AT A "LOWER LEVEL". WITH REFERENCE TO CONTINUING THE "HUMANITARIAN TALKS", THE MFA OFFICIAL WAS EQUALLY PESSIMISTIC, SINCE, HE STRESSED, THE TURKS ARE OPENLY COLONIZING THE NORTHERN ZONE (HE REFERRED TO COMMENTS BY TURKISH INTERIOR MINISTER ASILTURK IN THIS RESPECT) AND IS DRIVING THE REMAINING GREEK CITIZENS FROM THAT AREA. WE SIMPLY MUST AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, HE CONCLUDED, IN RESPONSE TO THE EMB-OFF'S ARGUMENT THAT EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO GET THE TALKS UNDER WAY AGAIN IN SOME FORM BEFORE THE UNGA MEETS.

5. MISCELLANEOUS. DENTASH'S THREATS TO DECLARE UDI, THE MFA OFFICIAL NOTED, SHOULD NOT BE DISREGARDED. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER HAS SAID THAT IF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IS CONSIDERED AT THE UNGA AND HE IS DENIED ACCESS TO SPEAK TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH THE MFA OFFICIAL BELIEVED WOULD BE THE CASE, THEN DENKTASH SAID HE WOULD DECLARE UDI, AND THIS TIME THE THREAT MAY COME TRUE. IN ESSENCE, DENKTASH ALREADY HAS THE NECESARY APPARATUS AT HIS DISPOSAL TO RUN AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE STATE, AND HE HAS MADE GOOD IN THE PAST ON HIS DECLARATIONS OF WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO. OF COURSE, THE REPERCUSSIONS OF UDI WOULD BE VERY SEVERE, SAID THE MFA OFFICIAL, DAMAGING EVEN FURTHER THE PROSPECTS FOR RESOLVING THE

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CYPRUS MATTER, AT LEAST IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
KUBISCH

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